



Beaverton Police Department

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Chief Geoff Spalding



NEWS RELEASE

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Keep Fireworks Safe and Legal

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A reminder that Beaverton police officers will be focusing their efforts on the use of illegal fireworks over the holiday weekend. Beginning Friday, July 1 through Monday, July 4, 2011, officers and deputy fire marshals will be patrolling together to support these enforcement efforts.

The Beaverton Police Department strongly advises citizens not to bring illegal fireworks within the city limits. The police department recommends you become familiar with which fireworks are legal within the State of Oregon. Fireworks that fly, explode or act in an uncontrolled manner are banned by Oregon law. Please keep in mind that many fireworks purchased by mail order, in the State of Washington or on Native American reservations are also illegal in Oregon.

Possession of illegal fireworks is a Class B Misdemeanor. Under Oregon law, officials may seize illegal fireworks and fine offenders up to \$500 per violation. In addition to potential criminal penalties, individuals can be held civilly liable for damages resulting from misuse of fireworks and Oregon law holds parents liable for damages their children are found to have caused.

Individuals concerned about neighbors using fireworks are reminded that Fourth of July festivities result in increased activity for all public safety agencies. Citizens needing to report a fire or medical emergency should call 9-1-1; those wishing to report a nuisance or concern about illegal fireworks should do so via the **non-emergency** number (503-629-0111).

The Fourth of July holiday weekend is one of family gatherings and celebrations. The Beaverton Police Department is asking for the public's assistance in making sure we have a safe weekend for all to enjoy.

##BPD##